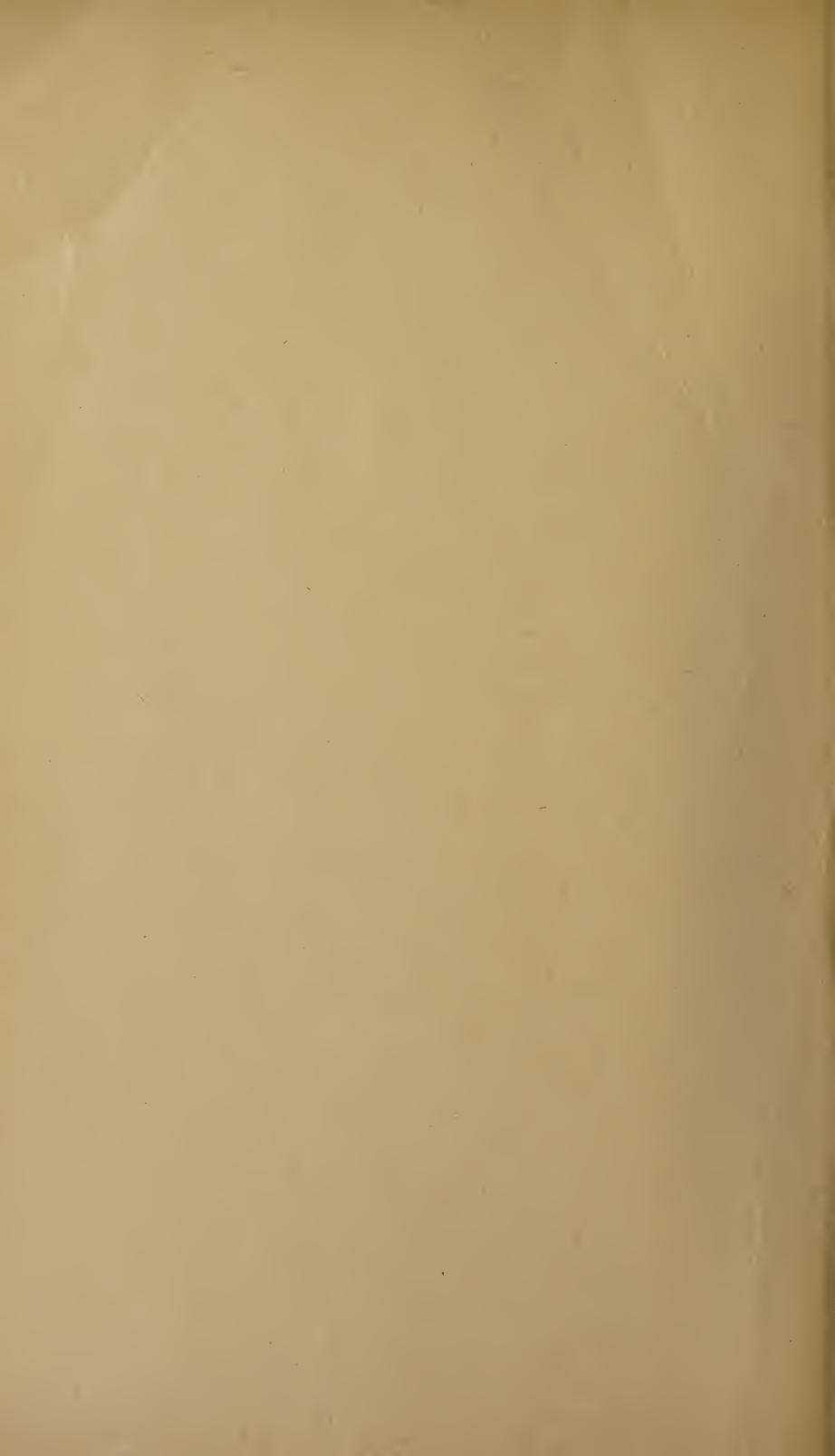
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BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY 1956





BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. December.

- 1956-

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

E.H. Holroyd, Cert. R.S.I.,

Meat and Food Inspector's Cert.

who combined the duties with that of Borough Surveyor.

(c) CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

General and Vital Statistics, i.e. population, Birth & Death Rates etc. are shown on page 6 with appropriate comments.

Although the Council is concerned principally with environmental health as distinct from the personal health services of the County Council, a report on public health necessitates content on all aspects of the National Health Service.

General Public Health.

Although the Public Health Service is fundamentally concerned with the control of epidemic disease, it is also concerned with environmental conditions and seeks to secure pure and tholesome food supplies, and to provide facilities for the preservation and maintenance of the health of the mother and child, and of the school child. It is also responsible for the welfare of the mentally and physically handicapped, and the aged.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The Wilts. County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service, arranges the immunisation schemes for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis and more recently B.C.G. vaccination. Vaccination against Smallpox is usually carried out by the Local General Practitioners unless mass vaccination has to be arranged, when the County Staff assist.

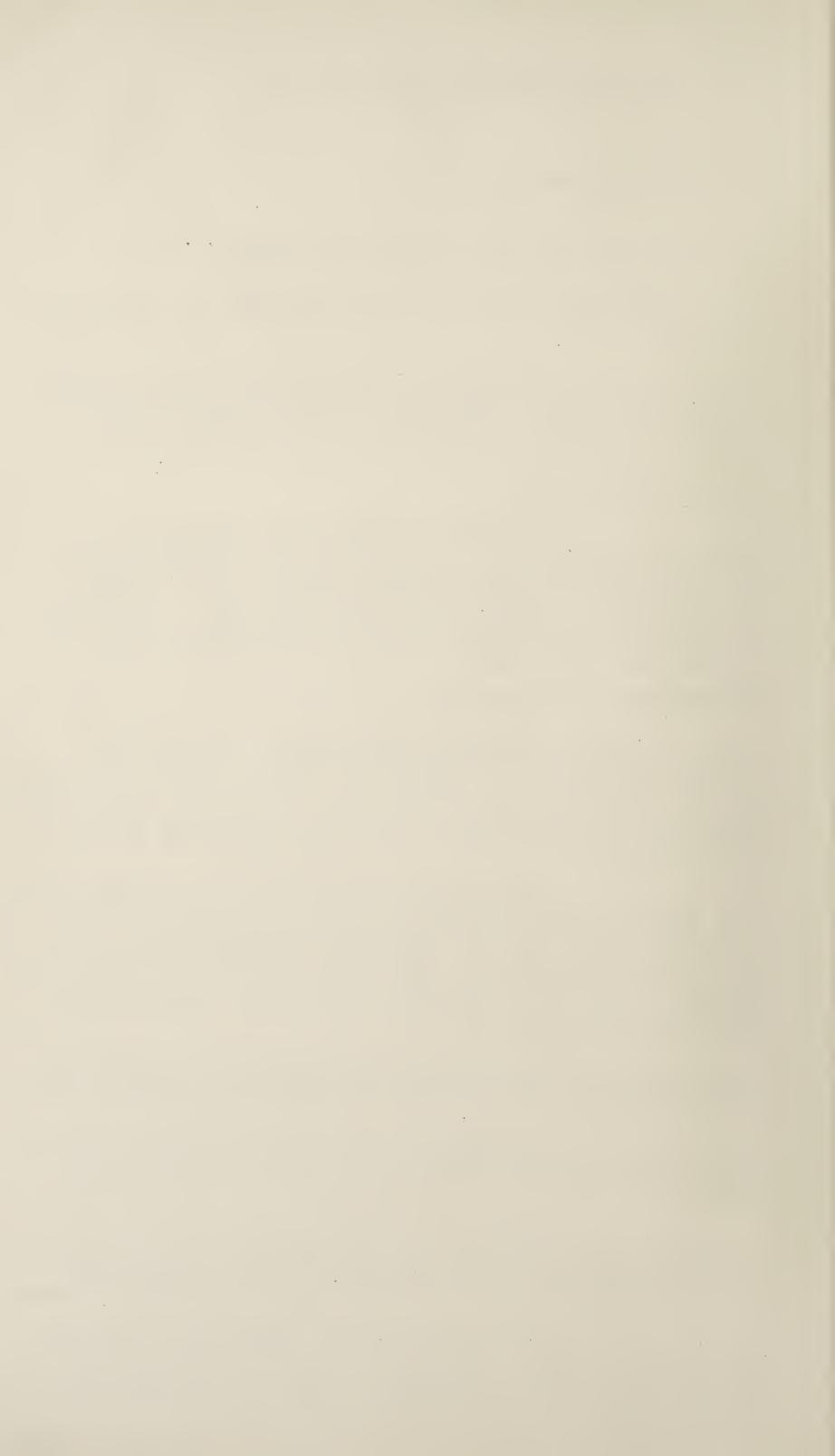
Compulsory powers for infant vaccination chased with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1948 and were replaced by voluntary arrangements. The number of infants under the age of one year vaccinated is now below the safety margin and the public should be made aware that the danger of infection is still very real and should not be ignored. Statistics relating to vaccination will be found on page 8 of this report.

Irmunisation against Diphtheria is still of prime importance; this procedure has contributed largely to the absence of any notified case of Diphtheric dering the year.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is usually incorporated with immunisation against Diphtheria and is a useful means of either avoiding an attack or of limiting its extent.

Poliomyelitis innoculations have been given to children in the Borough auring 1956 without any complications. It is too early yet to assess the value of this immunisation, but there is every reason to believe that it will prove effective.

B.C.G. immunisation. During the preparation of this report, B.C.G. immunisation against Tuberculosis has been made available to thirteen year old school children in certain schools in N.W. Wiltshire. This is an important and valuable measure in the control of Tuberculosis.



The striking improvement which has taken place in the infant mortality rate as a whole in recent years, has been due entirely to the saving of infant life after the first week. The Perinatal mortality rate, i.e. still births and deaths under 1 week, have, however, shown little improvement since 1949. The causes of perinatal mortality have now been investigated, and it has been shown that early recognition of these conditions can effect a further saving in infant life.

Scarlet Fever.

Most cases notified are of a mild type, and are usually sporadic, appearing whenever the population generally is suffering from a mild outbreak of sore throats or colds. Nevertheless, certain types of Haemolytic Streptococcal infection may have a selective action on the kidneys and may cause serious illness in adults.

Measles.

It is impracticable to control this disease due to its high infectiousness before the patient shows any sign of its presence. He may spread infection for several days before the characteristic rash is seen. It is fortunate that the fatality rate, like that of Scarlet Fever, has been steadily falling.

Whooping Cough.

The infant is very vulnerable to Whooping Cough. It is hoped that the combination of Whooping Cough with Diphtheria immunisation will contribute towards limiting this disease or reducing the severity of the attack. The group in greatest need of protection is that under six months of age.

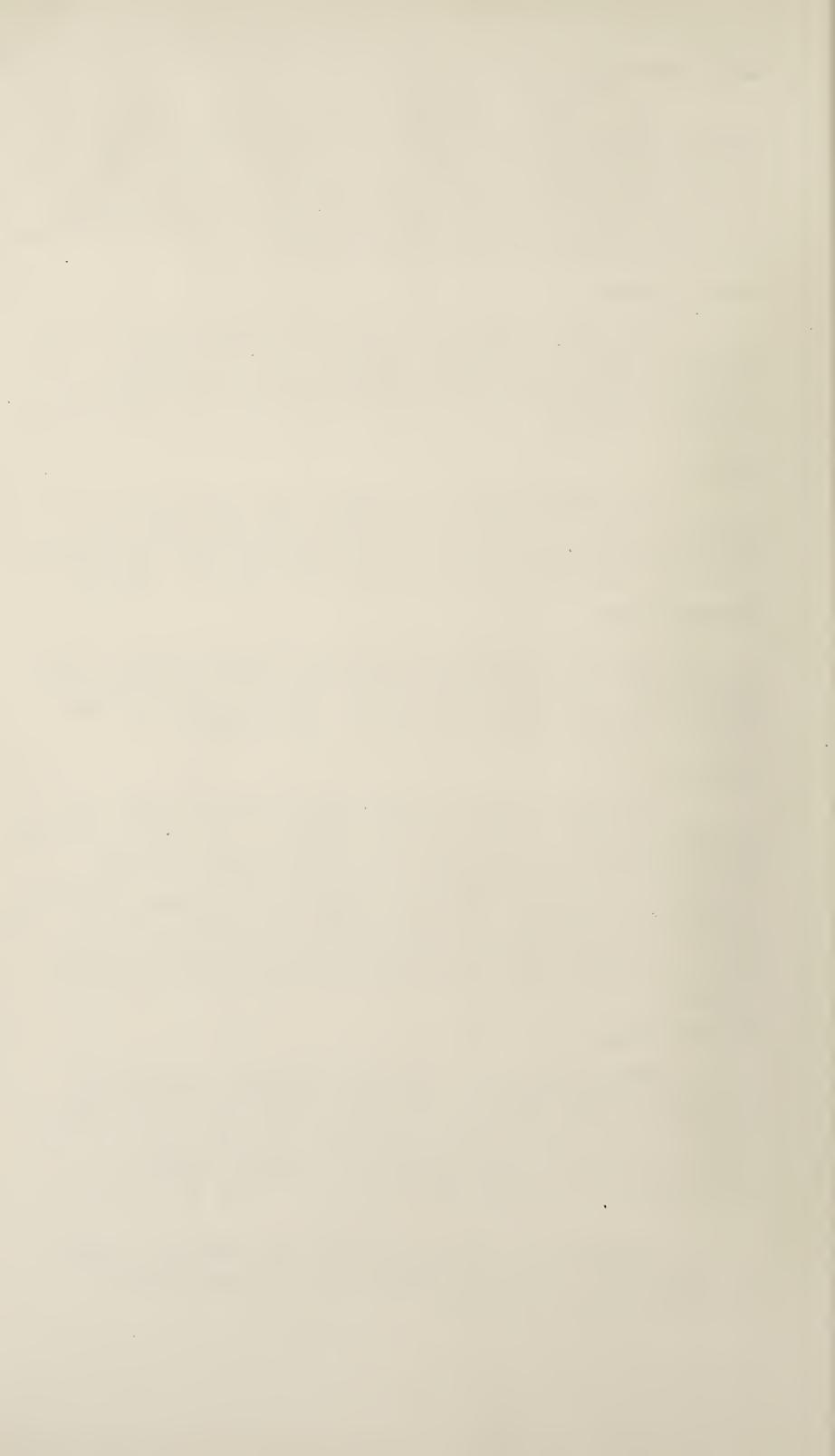
Dysentery.

This disease, most common amongst young children, is rapidly increasing throughout the Country. There is an apparent as well as a real increase, as facilities for the examination of specimens have been improved, and therefore more cases are diagnosed on bacteriological grounds; the only way to establish a positive diagnosis. It is fortunate that the usual causitive organism is responsible for only a mild form of the disease. The fact of its spread clearly indicates a general failure on the part of the population to wash hands after use of the toilet. This simple act is one of the most effective of all preventive measures.

Food Poisoning.

Pre-cooked meat dishes take a prominent place among the vehicles of infection. Sometimes noxious bacteria are not killed in the process of cooking and the time which clapses between the cooking of the meat and the consumption of the dish allows them to attain such numbers or to produce such a quantity of toxin as to be harmful. A common source of contamination is a septic condition of the skin or a symptom-less infection of the nose.

Scrupulous cleanliness of hands and utensils, cooking at temperatures lethal to bacteria, the use of sound meat and the restruction of made-up dishes, all contribute to the prevention of food poisoning.



Tub reulosis.

The present methods of treatment and prevention may eventually bring this disease under control. Tuberculosis is still the most important infectious disease, especially in the most productive years of life. Case finding is the key to prevention and efforts are necessary to trace the source of the disease in recognised cases and in those whose infection is revealed by the tuberculin test.

Cancer.

In his report for the year 1955, the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health states that "Civilized man appears to be increasingly surrounding himself with an unnatural chemical environment whose carcinogenic potentialities are being gradually explored. To what extent hum n cancer is caused by environmental carcinogens is not yet known but, as more and more of the chemical substances which men inhales, absorbs or ingests are being proved carcinogenic to animals, it seems reasonable to infer that certain cancers of the human body may be initiated or promoted by such substances".

Removal of a cancer in an early stage of development can be successful and the survival rate for treated cancers continues to increase, nevertheless the proportion of cancers found suitable for radical treatment is disappointingly small. There is no general solution as yet along curative lines.

Statistical studies in many countries have suggested that the incidence of cancer of certain sites is related to contain extraneous factors of great diversity. The most important at present is the association between Lung Cancer and Cigarette shoking. This problem cannot be ignored or its importance depreciated. The lives of those who will follow us must be considered and an effort made to halt the increasing annual death rate from this disease. In males 50-54 the Lung Cancer death rate is one half of the total cancer death rate and about one eighth of the total death rate from all causes in males. Many countries have carried out investigations and all are agreed that the relative risk of developing lung cancer rises in proportion to the amount of tobacco, especially cigarettes consumed. It has been stated that for a person smolting 40 cigarettes a day, the chance of Lung Cancer was 70 times greater than for a non-smoker, also that there was a higher mertality in smokers than in non-smokers, a higher mortality in eigarette smokers than in pipe smokers, and a higher mortality in those who continue to smoke than in those who give it up. Therisks involved should be made clear to all young persons in order that they do not commence a habit potentially dangerous, and so difficult to give up once formed.

Mental Health.

It is generally accepted that the Child Welfare Services must pay increasing attention to the mental and emotional development of the child in an attempt to prevent or minimise the onset of mental illness. Treatment can be more effective or avoided altogether if the signs of physical or mental abnormality are noted and acted upon at an early age.

Blood Transfusion.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that one public session, at which sixty two donors attended, was held in Malmesbury during 1956. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.



The needs of old people living in their own homes continue to attract attention. During the year it was found necessary to arrange removal to hospital of one elderly male who apart from being seriously ill, was living in insanitary conditions. Whereever possible, every effort is made through either the County elfare Officer, and or the Home Help Sorvice for old people to remain for as long as possible in the surroundings to which they are accustomed.

New Health Legislation during 1956.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 also came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Under the latter, certain provisions involving alterations to premises or equipment or substantial changes in existing practices were deferred until the 1st July, 1956.

I am grateful to Mr. Holroyd, the Staff of the Council, and to Mr. Williamson, my Clerk, for their assistance in the preparation of this report and their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.



Area (in cares)		• • • •	2	27		
Population						
No. of inhabited house (end of 1956 according to the Rate Book) 928						
Rateable Value .		• • • • •	£36,1	40.		
Sum represented	by the Penny Ra	te	£14	1.		
	VITAL STATIST	ICS.				
LIVE BIRTHS						
	BIRTHS MA	ALES F	EMALES	TOTAL		
	Legitimate Illeg i timate Total	27 1 28	17 2 19	44 3 47		
Birth Rate for t	he Borough					
Comparative Rate	for England & 1	Wales	15.7	population. per 1000 of population.		
The Bir the rate for 195	th Rate for this 5 which was 13.8					
STILL BIRTHS						
	BIRTHS MAI	LES FE	MALES	TOTAL		
	Legitimate Illegitimate Total		1 1	1 - 1		
Rate per 1000 to	tal live and st:	ill births		. 20.8		
INFANT MORTALITY						
	BIRTHS MAI	LES FEI	MALES	TOTAL		
		1	-	4		
	Legitimate : Illegitimate : Total :		greet devil	1		
No. of infants deper 1000 live bis	Illegitimate . Total :	L ne year of	_	- 1		

Total

Females

Deaths recorded in the Borough during 1956 were as follows:-

	18	14	32
Death Rate for the Borough .	• • • • •		11.7 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England	& Wales .		11.7 per 1000 of the population.

Males

The Death Rate for the Borough this year is lower than the rate for 1955 which was 13.4 per 1000 of the population. It will be seen also that the Death Rate for 1956 and the comparative rate for England & Wales are identical.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory			***
Tuberculosis, other	50-0	944	-
Syphilitic disease	₩	-	•
Diphtheria	6-10	prod	garreng .
Whocping Cough	***	•	~
Meningococcal infections.	← *	bend	***
Ac. Poliomyelitis	Gard	•	ème
Measles	-	849	danit.
Other infective and parasitic diseases	•••	-	~
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	⊷	•••	
", lung, bronchus	2		2
Breast	-	B=4	•
" Uterus		←	•
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2.	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	greg	844	group.
Diabetes	⊷	₽ = 4	6×4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4 5 2	3	7
Coronary disease angina	5		5
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	•••	₩	**
Other circulatory disease	A-10	ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	Д.
Influenza	gang .	~	***
Pneumonia	~	ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	<u>.L</u>
Bronchitis Other discoses of magninetemy greater	Ores .	7	### "I
Other diseases of respiratory system	> →	1.	ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	•	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	p4	•••	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	ייי ז		7
Hyperplasia of prostate Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-la 		-d
Congenital malformations			
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	T T	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	2
All other accidents	7	7	2
Suicide	T.	ale Best	Service Specially
Homicide and operations of war	9~4	9~4	de-s
TOTAL ALL CAUSES.	18	14	32
	40	angles of state of the state of	

It will be seen from the above table that whilst no deaths occurred from communicable diseases, Cancer, Heart Disease and Coronary Disease collectively accounted for half the total deaths in the Borough during 1956.

Apart from the notification of nine cases of Whooping Cough and one case of Pneumonia during the final Quarter of the year, the Borough enjoyed a complete freedom from notifiable infectious disease (other than tuberculosis), during 1956.

By comparison with the records for previous years since 1950, the number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease actually notified during 1956, was the lowest recorded in the Infectious Diseases Register.

TUBERCULOSIS.

and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during 1956. The patients, three males and one female are under surveillance by the County Chest Physician and the environmental conditions of each person has been investigated by the Health Inspector.

It should be noted however that in addition to the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the Borough or move out, whilst a certain proportion are certified by the Chest Physician as recovered and their names removed from the Register of Tuberculous Persons. At the end of 1956 the following cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis remained on the Register.

	Males	Fomales	Total
Pulmonary Non-Pulmonar Total	17 y 1	15 1	32 2

It is gratifying to record that no deaths from Tuberculosis have been registered during 1956.

MASS X-RAY

During January a Mobile X-Ray Unit operated in the Borough. Statistics supplied by the South Western Regional Hospital Board confirm that a total of 1002 persons attended for examination. Of that number six cases of tuberculosis were found, one case was in an active stage. In addition a further 13 persons examined were found to be suffering from various non-tuberculous conditions.

It is hoped that it may be possible to arrange for a further visit of the Mobile X-Ray Unit to Malmesbury during 1957.

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation.

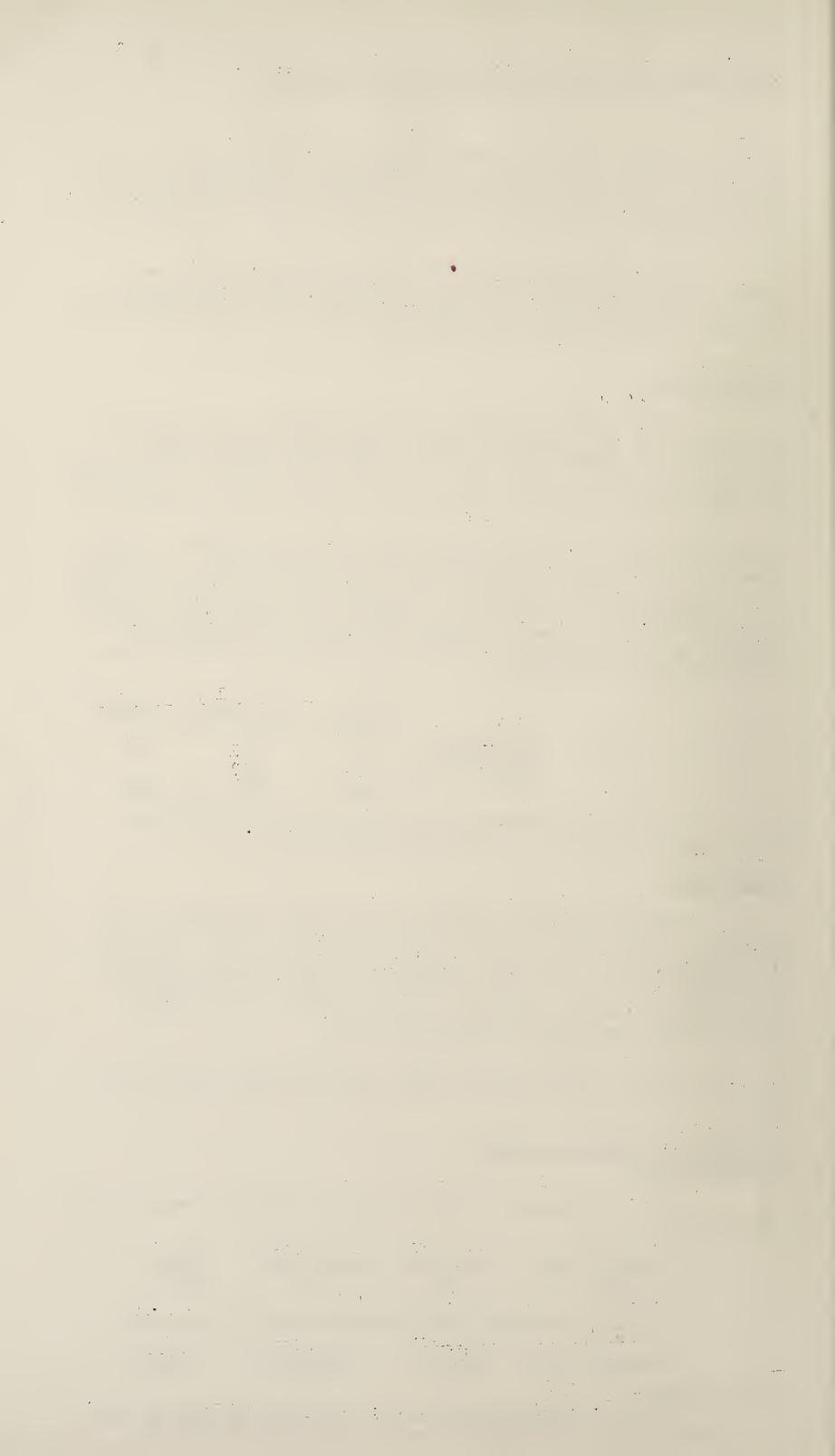
The following children received primary immunisation during 1956:-

<u>Under 1 year Ages 1-4 Ages 5-14 Total</u>
80
33
5
Total

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.56

Under 1 year Ages 1-4 Ages 5-14 Total 700 Vaccinations

The following children were vaccinated during 1956.
Under 1 year. .31; Ages 1-4. .2; 5-14..1; 15 plus.7;



I am grateful to Mr. Holroyd for the following information concerning Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewerage, and statistics as required by the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Borough obtains water supplies from two sources, one, a borehole 153 feet deep at Park Road, and the other, a shallow well, fed by three springs, at Holloway. All water is now supplied from the Borehole in Park Road, and the Holloway source will only be used in an emergency. The water is pumped by electrically driven centrifugal pumps to a water tower of 200,000 gallons capacity, whence it reaches the sonsumers by gravity. A bulk supply is given to the Malmesbury Rural District Council.

The average daily quantity of water pumped for use in the Borough during 1956 was 153,000 gallons, giving 55 gallons per head per day of population estimated at 2,750. This is a sharp increase over the previous year. In addition, an average of 28,000 gallons per day was supplied in bulk to the Malmesbury Rural District Council. This is a decrease over the previous year, and it will decrease still further as the Rural District Council continue to develop their own sources of supply.

The water ischlorinated at source and frequent bacteriological and chemical examinations are made with satisfactory results.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole of the Borough is served by an obsolete system of sewers, which discharge through small catchpits, into the river. There are no works for the treatment and disposal of the sewage, and pollution of the River Avon occurs.

During the year application was again made to the Ministry for a starting date for the new sewerage scheme, but the Ministry stated that the need to restrict capital expenditure was still great, and only work of exceptional urgency could be permitted. Nevertheless the pollution of the River Avon should be abated, particularly since the admission to the River of the effluent from the new Slaughterhouse has aggravated the situation and the Development within the Borough boundary, without adequate sewage disposal is to be deprecated.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31st. DECEMBER, 1956

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Malmesbury:

Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present to you my tenth Annual Report, covering the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1956.

The tables and statistics are set out in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51, as amended by Circular 19/56.

Again I must express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help during the year, and also for their sympathy during my bouts of illness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. HOLROYD

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat

There is one slaughterhouse in the Borough, in which killing takes place six days weekly, Sundays included, and one hundred per cent inspection of all animals killed has been maintained throughout the year. This has been possible through the co-operation of the local Veterinary Officer, who has carried out the inspections when I have been away.

The killing of pigs continues at the Bacon Factory.

The table overleaf gives details of animals killed and inspected, together with numbers of animals affected by disease, and includes pigs killed at the Bacon Factory.

1. , ..

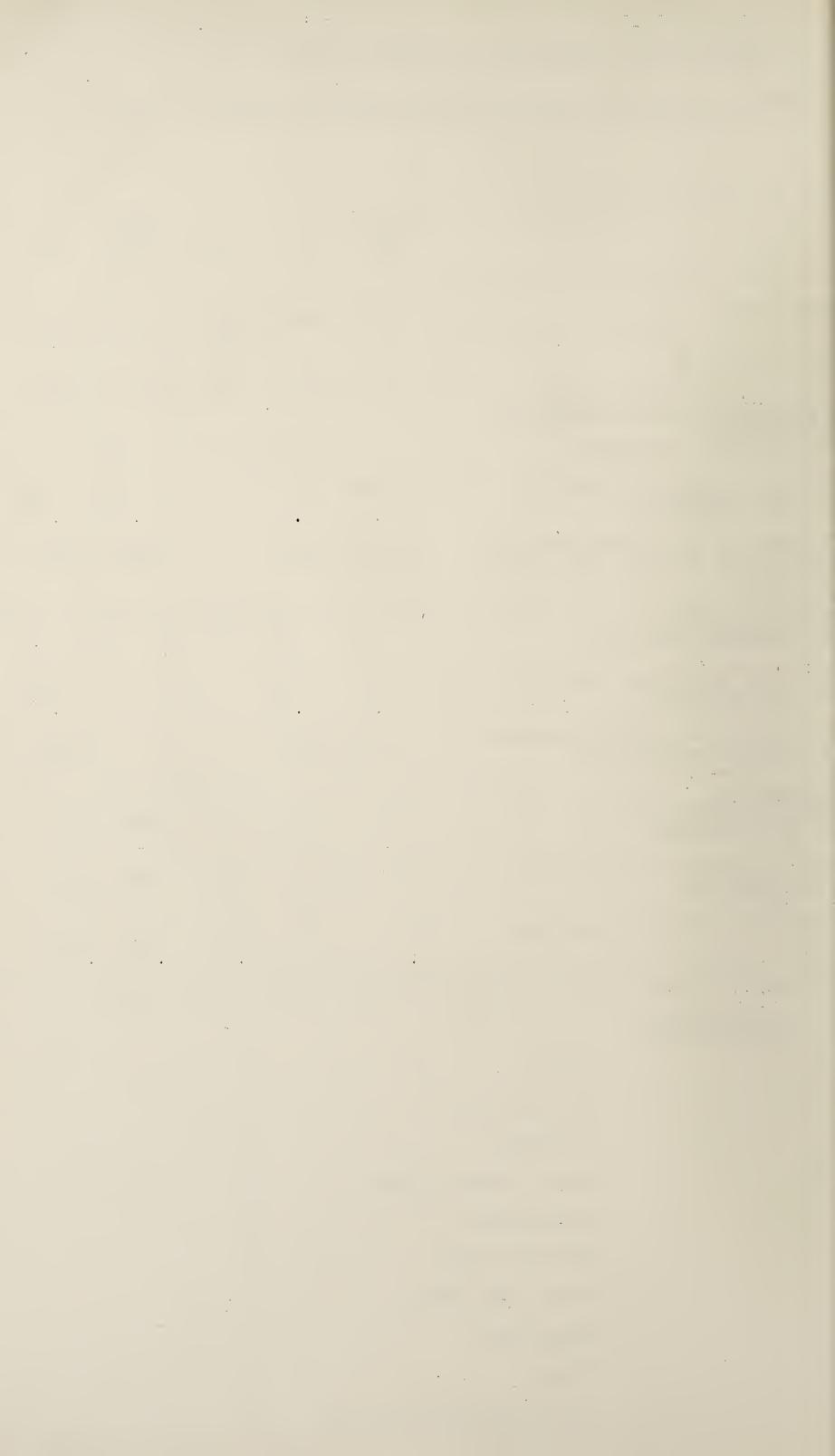
Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

Experience of the contraction of	Professions was seen and a sign of a seen	PA - Machines has a substanción or operates one for some ge	THE RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF TH		
	Cattle excl.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
nber killed	1,610	184	589	4,178	7,431
1ber inspected	1,610	184	589	4,178	7,431
diseases except Tuberculosis Cysticerci. Die carcases condemned		3	3	4	
cases of which some part or san was condemned	172	27		21	44
centage of the number inspected ceted with disease other than perculosis	10.7%	14.7%		0.5%	0.6%
erculosis only le carcases condemned	2	3		ummammam og humbogannan regunnsy engligtingska	4
cases of which some part or san was condemned	93	20			138
centage of the number inspected ected with tuberculosis	5.8%	10.9%		•	1.9%
ticercosis cases of which some part or an was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
cases submitted to treatment refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
eralised & totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

al weight of meat & offal condemned: 6 tons 3 cwts. o qrs. 1 lb.

FOOD PREMISES

Grocers	6
Greengrocers	3
Butchers	5
Small General Shops	13
Sweetshops	5
Wet Fish Shops	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
Cake Shops	1
Cafes	2
Hotels serving meals to non-residents	5



Food Premises (Cont'd.)

All food premises were inspected during the year, and a start was made on bringing premises into line with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56. Most shops required some work to be carried out, and in a number of cases this has been completed.

The five butchers' shops are all registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture and sale of sausages. In addition there is one shop registered under the section for the sale of chitterlings.

There are 17 shops selling ice cream, all of which are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All these shops sell a pre-wrapped ice cream, stored at a regular temperature by refrigeration. There are no premises in the Borough at which ice cream is manufactured.

Milk.

There is one milk producer and three milk retailers in the Borough. Two of the dairies are in the Borough, whilst the other is in the adjoining Rural District. The premises of the two local dairymen are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954 for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. There are no pasteurisation plants, and no producers of Tuberculin Tested milk in the Borough.

Bakehouses.

There are no bakehouses in the Borough, and all the bread distributed is baked elsewhere.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and surrender notes were issued accordingly. Diseased meat and offal from the slaughterhouse is stained and disposed of for processing, or for cinsumption at kennels: diseased meat and offal from the Bacon Factory is burnt in the factory boiler, and other condemned foodstuffs are collected and buried at the refuse tip.

Foodstuff	Weight
Tinned meat "fruit "tomatoes "milk Cheese Wet fish Imported lamb Beef	31 lbs. 1 " 5 " 22 " 28 " 8 " 621 "

Total weight surrendered: 6 cwts. 1 qr. 18 lbs.

5 .

Refuse is collected twice weekly and tipped at a site approximately 1 mile from the centre of the town. Periodic treatment for rats and other pests is regularly carried out.

Salvaged paper and cardboard are collected with the refuse, and a special collection is made twice monthly from business premises. During the year a total of 29 tons was collected, which realised £159.10. O.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The conditions of employees in shops under the provisions of the Shops Acts are generally satisfactory, and no serious breaches of the Act were found.

HOUSING.

No houses were erected during the year, but the purchase was completed of a site of 3th acres at the rear of Corn Gastons. The opportunity also arose to purchase the old Police Station block from the County Council. This comprises three dwellings, and they were acquired primarily to rehouse the persons that will be displaced from a small proposed Clearance Area opposite. Since the preliminary housing survey was made three unfit houses have been demolished, and undertakings not to re-let have been received in respect of five others.

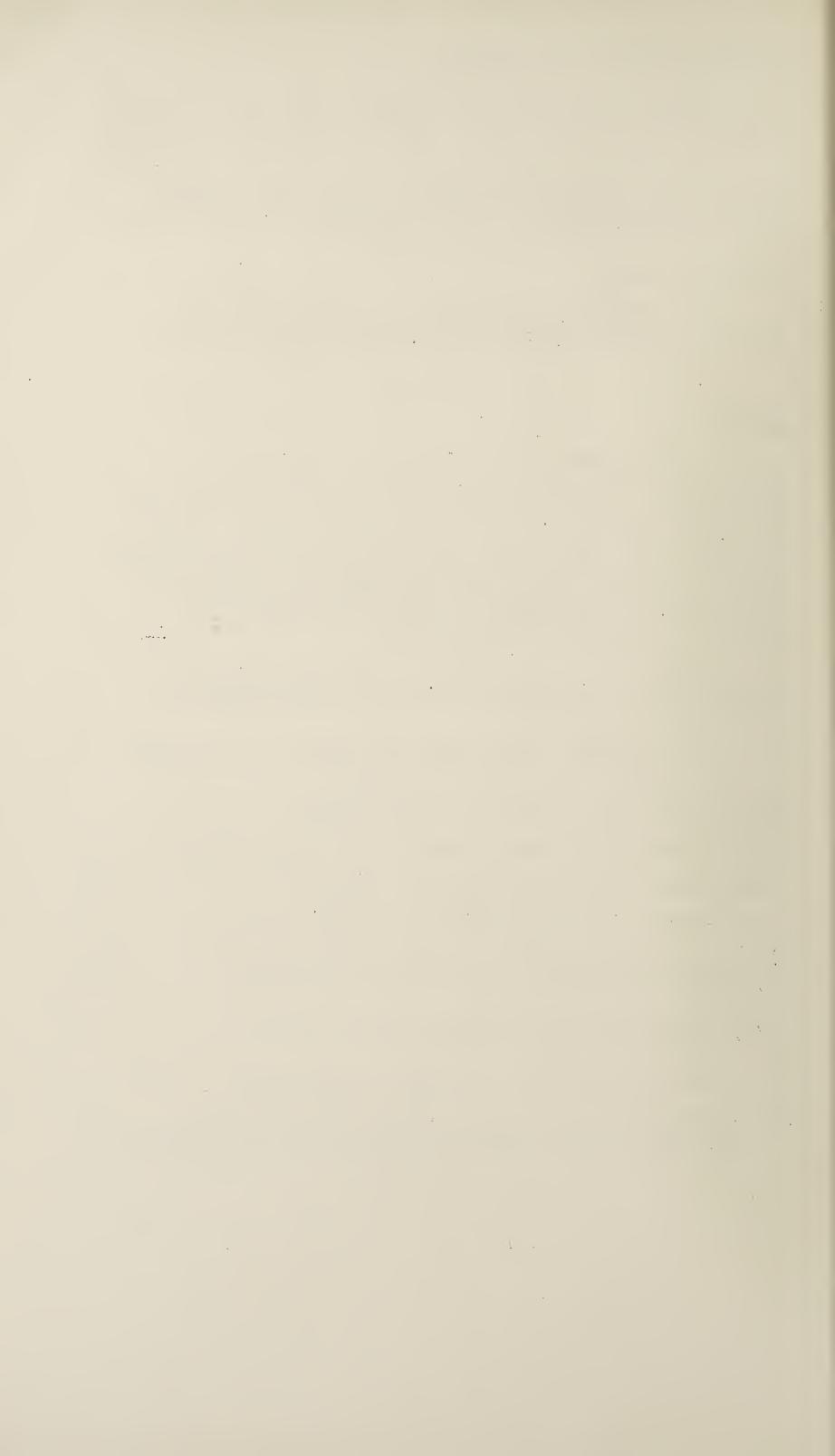
At the end of the year there were 62 applicants on the waiting list for houses, who were either living or working in the Borough.

The following details show the position with regard to overcrowding at the end of the year:

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	Nil
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	Nil
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)(l) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(2) Number of persons concernal in such cases	9
(d) Particulars of any case in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority	Nil y

have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding



SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Visits and Inspections made during 1956.

Investigation of complaints	21 53 7
Fish shops	. 20
Butchers' shops	6 4
Dairies Shops under the Shops Acts	468
Infectious disease enquiries	3
Factories	32 3 31 86
Applicants for Council houses	_
New drainage work	566
Rat infestations	
	596

Statement of nuisances recorded and abated during 1956.

	Nature of Complaint	No. during 1	No. abated	
		Year		<u>0/s</u>
Choked dra	ins	11	11	gaves
Defective	drains	4	4	
11	water closets	Ź	ĺ	1
11	roofs	2	2	
ti -	gutters & rainwater pipes	1	1	glywink
li .	floors	1	1	aa
11	walls	3	3	
ti	ceilings	í	í	-
Dirty room		5	4	1
Insanitary	accumulations	6	6	-
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	From animals	3	3	-
Miscellane		<u>4</u>	22	2
		ДЗ	39	4

.1.

• 4 4 5

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